

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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R 240815Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO DEA HQS WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
SECSTATE WASHDC 4954

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BANGKOK 14712

HQS PASS ENOF/DOYLE, BACHRACH/IGI, FINK/IG, EN/EVANS,
STAUTMAN/CA FROM RD ADDARIO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: BRIEFING MATERIAL FOR CODEL WOLFF'S SEA TRIP

REF: 13262 (R051749Z MAY 78)

1. REFTEL REQUESTED NEW INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION INTO IG BRIEFING BOOK FOR REP WOLFF FOR HIS USE DURING CODEL VISIT TO REG 16 IN JULY. THE FOLLOWING ARE REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS SINCE CODEL WOLFF'S LAST VISIT A YEAR AGO WHICH BRO SUGGESTS IG CONSIDER INCORPORATING INTO UPDATED BRIEFING BOOK. THESE SUGGESTED CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE BRIEFING BOOK PREVIOUSLY PREPARED ARE SUBMITTED IN SHORT OUTLINE FORM. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED EACH SUGGESTED CHANGE BY A DATE OR OTHER CITATION SO AS TO AFFORD IGI A MEANS OF LOCATING THE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED REPORT REGARDING THE MATTER OF CHANGE:

2. BURMA

A. TACHILEK SEIZURE (AUGUST 1977); 2ND LARGEST SEIZURE EVER.

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B. MOHEIN 3 AND 4 (JUNE-JULY 1977, APR 78); BURMESE OPERATIONS AGAINST BORDER REFINERIES.

C. PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK'S VISIT TO RANGOON TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, BORDER PROBLEMS, MINORITY GROUPS IN THAILAND, AND NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION ENDEAVORS

(MAY 1978). PM KRIANGSAK AND PARTY HAVE RETURNED AND NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION WAS DISCUSSED. ALTHOUGH JOINT OPERATIONS ARE NOT BEING CONSIDERED, THE GROUND WORK HAS BEEN SET FOR THE EXCHANGE OF ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE. NO INDICATIONS AT THIS TIME AS TO HOW SUCCESSFUL THIS EXCHANGE WILL BE.

D. GOLDEN TRIANGLE NARCOTICS GOING TO EUROPE VIA WESTERN BURMA AND INDIA; ON NO LESS THAN THREE OCCASIONS THERE HAS BEEN AN INDICATION THAT TRAFFICKERS HAVE USED THIS RATHER THAN THE CONVENTIONAL ROUTE (NORTHERN THAILAND, BKK TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS).

E. STATE DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENT OF AVIATION ADVISOR TO RANGOON; IN SPRING OF 1978.

F. U.S. PROVIDING RANGOON GOVERNMENT WITH FIXED WING TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT. THESE FIXED WING AIRCRAFT WERE USED IN THE RECENT MOHEIN IV ENDEAVOR. AS A RESULT THE REACTION TIME OF THE BURMESE FORCES WAS GREATLY REDUCED.

3. THAILAND

A. MAJORITY OF BPP TRANSFERRED TO ROYAL THAI ARMY; LATE IN 1977, MOST OF THE BPP WERE TRANSFERRED TO CONTROL OF THE SUPREME COMMAND OF THE ROYAL THAI ARMY. THE BPP
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PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN THE THAI BURMA BORDER AREA. THIS CHANGE COULD STRENGTHEN BPP PERFORMANCE.

B. BURMESE DISSIDENT ARMED GROUPS ORDERED OUT OF THAILAND; IN MAY 1978, THE THAI GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE SHAN UNITED ARMY, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHANG CHI FU, WAS PHYSICALLY RELOCATED INSIDE OF BURMA.

C. LAO FAN SEIZURE AND EXECUTION: (SEE REPORTS UNDER CASE NUMBER WA-77-0026.

D. CHIANG KAI CH'ENG FLEEING TO NORTHERN THAILAND/BURMA BORDER AREA IN SUMMER OF 1977. THAI ARREST WARRANT ISSUED FOR HIS ARREST. (FOLLOW REPORTING UNDER OP. RUBY AND THE LAO FAN CASE).

E. ESCAPE OF LAO SU IN NOVEMBER 1977; (WA-76-0041).

F. 900 KILOS OF OPIUM SEIZED BY THAI CUSTOMS ON ANDAMAN SEA IN DEC 1977; (REPORT CABLED AND NOTED IN WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN).

G. GENERAL POW SARASIN SELECTED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF NARCOTIC CONTROL BOARD IN MAY 1978: ALTHOUGH GENERAL POW HAS BEEN SELECTED, IT HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED AT THIS TIME WHAT THIS WILL MEAN TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN THAILAND. GENERAL POW'S RECORD SUGGESTS THAT THIS IS A VERY POSITIVE MOVE AND WILL DEFINITELY BENEFIT NARCOTIC INTERDICTION EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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H. JAMES SMEDLEY RELEASED FROM PRISON IN JAN 1978
PENDING APPEAL. (SEE CASE #WA-76-0046).

I. ADDITIONAL FOREIGN NARCOTIC ATTACHES POSTED TO
BKK; (NOW HAVE REPRESENTATION FROM UK, CANADA, FRANCE,
NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND AUSTRALIA).

J. U.S. AND EUROPEAN ORGANIZED CRIME ELEMENTS CONTINUE
TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE NARCOTIC CONNECTIONS IN SE ASIA.
THE FOLLOWING CASES ARE EXAMPLES: WA-76-0052, WA-77-
0020, XA-76-0008.

K. KEY ENFORCEMENT COUNTERPARTS IN 7TH SUB-DIVISION
REASSIGNED: REPORTS UNDER FILE #GFWA-76-8007).

L. SOUTHERN THAILAND INCREASED IN IMPORTANCE AS TRANS-
SHIPMENT AND REFINERY AREA; REPORTED UNDER OPERATION
ROSEMARY AND OTHER CASE FILES EMINATING FROM SONGKHLA
AND KUALA LUMPUR.

M. YEAR-END SEIZURE STATISTICS.

4. MALAYSIA

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A. INCREASED ROLE AS COURIER RECRUITMENT, REFINING, STORAGE, AND TRANSSHIPMENT AREA: REPORTED IN KL CASES IN GENERAL.

B. CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEA AND CID VICE CNB:

C. INCREASING SEIZURES OF HEROIN, PARTICULARLY #4, IN MALAYSIA.

5. SINGAPORE

A. REASSIGNMENT OF JOHN HANAM FROM CNB IN APR 1978; REPORTED BY CABLE FM SINGAPORE DO.

B. INCARCERATION FOR DRUG USAGE (OPERATION FERRET):

C. INCREASED UTILIZATION OF DETECTOR DOGS AT CAUSEWAY.

6. LAOS

A. LPDR OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING; SEE OPERATION EMERALD AND CASE #WHAUYAPPPTM

B. HEROIN FROM BURMA TRANSMITTING LAOS TO NORTHERN THAILAND.

7. INDONESIA

A. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS GURITA 1 AND 2: (JAKARTA DO SUBMITTED REPORT)

B. CONTINUES TO BE VIEWED AS POTENTIAL PRODUCING
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AREA; CLIMATE AND SOIL ARE SUITABLE FOR OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION.

C. LARGE OPOOY SEED SEIZURE REPORTED BY CABLE.

8. AUSTRALIA

A. INCREASING INTERNAL HEROIN USE.

B. FEDERAL NARCOTICS EFFORT REORGANIZED INTO FBN IN FEB 1978, WITH INCREASED INTERDICTION EFFORT ALONG FRONTIER BORDERS AND COASTAL AREAS;

C. THAI MARIHUANA CONTINUES TO BE SHIPPED TO AUSTRALIA. (TAITE CASE).

9. JAPAN

A. INCREASED ROLE AS TRANSSHIPMENT AREA FOR THE US.

2. ORGANIZED CRIME ELEMENTS MADE CONNECTIONS WITH ORGANIZED CRIME ELEMENTS IN HAWAII.

C. NARCOTIC OFFENSES INCLUDED IN US EXTRADITION TREATY.

10. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE PHILIPPINES, KOREA AND TAIWAN SINCE PUBLICATION OF PREVIOUS BRIEFING BOOK.

11. MACAO IS A TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR TRAWLER SHIPMENTS FROM THAILAND TO HONG KONG. ATTEMPTS BY DEA TO ESTABLISH LIAISON WITH MACAO WAS DISCOURAGED BY STATE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE OF MACAO'S PROXIMITY TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

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12. HONG KONG REMAINS THE BASE FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC FINANCIER'S AND BROKERS. THOSE PEOPLE ARE DIFFICULT TO GET TO BECAUSE OF THE CHINESE SYSTEM OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

13. SHORT SUSPENSE IN REFTEL PRECLUDES BRO FROM AMPLIFYING TO ANY EXTENT ON ABOVE POINTS AND MERELY PROVIDES THESE FOR IG'S CONSIDERATION. SOME EXPANSION IS BEING FORWARDED TO IG BY APO MAIL. BRO SUGGESTS IG REVIEW MEMO FORWARDED TO MESSRS BENSINGER, LEWIS, AND EVANS DTD 01/06/78 TITLED, NARCOTICS DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: OVERVIEW OF 1977. ALSO, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPORTATION ROUTES MIGHT BE INCLUDED.

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HQS PASS ENOF/DOYLE, BACHRACH/IGI, FINK/IG, EN/EVANS, STAUTMAN/
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14. NEW THAI GOVERNMENT

THE KRIANGSAK CHAMANAND GOVERNMENT ASSUMED OFFICE IN OCT 1977 AND QUICKLY STATED THAT IT INTENDED TO FOLLOW A FIRM ANTI-NARCOTICS LINE. SO FAR, ITS RECORD HAS BEEN GOOD. POSTIIVELY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED THE SHAN UNITED ARMY AND LESSER BURMESE DISSIDENT ARMED GROUPS WITH HEADQUARTERS ON THAI SOIL TO LEAVE THEIR THAI SANCTUARIES. MOST OF THESE DISSIDENT GROUPS FINANCE THEIR OPERATIONS BY ENGAGING IN SOME FORM OF NARCOTICS ACTIVITY WHETHER IT BE OPIUM SMUGGLING, NARCOTICS CARAVAN PROTECTION, TAXATION OF NARCOTICS MOVEMENTS, ETC. WHILE THIS MOVE BY THE THAI GOV'T., WILL NOT PUT THESE GROUPS OUT OF THE DRUG BUSINESS, IT WILL IMPEDE THAT ACTIVITY AND PERHAPS MAKE THEM MORE VULNERABLE TO BURMESE PRESSURE. PM KRIANGSAK ALSO LED A DELEGATION TO RANGOON IN MAY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN GENERAL. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BURMESE WERE HELD ON JOINT BORDER ACTIONS AGAINST THOSE ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION. AVAILABLE DETAILS HAVE BEEN REPORTED
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IN STATE CHANNELS.

15. MAJOR GENERAL POW SARASIN WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY

GENERAL OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD, WHICH SERVES AS THE COORDINATING BODY FOR THAILAND'S NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM AND IS DIRECTLY SUBORDINATE TO THE PRIME MINISTER. POW HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH DEA FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND IS CONSIDERED BOTH DEDICATED AND HONEST.

16. OTHER, PREVIOUS PERSONNEL MOVES THAT THE POLICE WORKING LEVEL HOWEVER, HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED THAI POLICE ABILITY TO SUPPRESS NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. THE 7TH SUB DIVISION, WHICH HAS COUNTRY-WIDE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AND IS THE LARGES SINGLE POLICE NARCOTICS UNIT, HAS BEEN ALL BUT STRIPPED OF THOSE EFFECTIVE POLICE OFFICERS WITH WHOM DEA HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH. COOPERATION WITH THE 7TH SUB-DIVISION IS PRESENTLY ONLY PERFUNCTORY. JOINT DEA/THAI INVESTIGATIONS ARE CURRENTLY CONDUCTED WITH THE PNSC, MNU, BPP AND PROVICAL POLICE. IT IS UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME WHAT AFFECT POW'S APPOINTMENT MAY HAVE ON THE STAFFING OF LINE ANTI-NARCOTICS UNITS.

17 IN SUM IT CAN BE STATED THAT TH THRUST OF PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK'S NARCOTICS POLICY IS POSITIVE AND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF IS KEENLY AWARE OF MOST ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION. THE EFFECT OF GENERAL PAO'S ASCENSION TO A LEADING POLICY-MAKING AND DIRECTING ROLE IN THAILAND'S NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL BASED ON OUR PAST DEALINGS WITH HIM. HOWEVER, WHAT HIS ROLE WILL BE IS NOT COMPLETELY DEFINED.

18. TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

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AS BURMESE AND THAI GOVERNMENT PRESSURE CONTINUES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE, TRAFFICKERS HAVE BEGUN UTILIZING ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION ROUTES TO MOVE NARCOTICS FROM THE BORDER REFINERIES TO WORLD MAKRETS. SMALL MAOUNTS OF NARCOTICS-USUALLY LESS THAN FIVE KILOGRAMS-CONTINUE TO MOVE SOUTH WITH CONSIDERABLE FREQUENCY THROUGH THAILAND TO BANGKOK OR TO SOUTHERN THAILAND FOR ONWARD DISTRIBUTION. ALL FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION ARE UTILIZED.

19. THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES ALL BEGIN AT THE BORDER REFINERIES AND MOVE BACK THROUGH BURMA. ONE ESTABLISHED ROUTE ENTERS INDIA'S MANIPU STATE-POSSIBLY AT THE BORDER TOWN OF TAMU, BURMA--AFTER CROSSING BURMA. INTELLIGENCE REPORTING HAS SUGGESTED THAT THIS ROUTE HAS BEEN ACTIVE SINCE AT LEAST 1976. IN SEP 1977, AN INDIAN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER WAS ARRESTED WITH ONE UNIT (700 GRAMS) OF HEROIN NO. 4, THE SINGLE LARGES HEROIN SEIZURE EVER IN

THAT COUNTRY. THE TRAFFICKER STATED THAT THE HEROIN
CROSSED INTO INDIA'S MANIPU STATE FROM BURMA, THEN
THROUGH NEPAL AND FINALLY INTO THE NEW DELHI-BOMBAY
AREA FOR SALE AND DISTRIBUTION.

20. THE SECOND SUSPECTED ROUTE FROM THE BORDER REFINERIES
INVOLVES THE MOVEMENT OF NARCOTICS TO RANGOON AND/OR
TO PORTS ALONG THE ANDAMAN SEA SUCH AS MOULEMEIN, MERGUI,
YE AND TAVOY. FROM THESE POINTS, OPIUM AND NARCOTICS
ARE APPARENTLY TRANSPORTED TO TRANSSHIPMENT LOCATIONS IN
THAILAND OR TO REFINERIES SITES IN MALAYSIA.

21. THE THIRD AND LEAST UNDERSTOOD SUSPECTED ROUTE IS
THROUGH LAOS. WE BELIEVE NARCOTICS/OPIUM ARE MOVED FROM
THE SHAN STATE IN BURMA INTO LAOS WHERE THEY ENTER
NORTHEAST THAILAND AND ARE TRANSPORTED OVERLAND TO
BANGKOK OR POINTS SOUTH.

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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: SNAR, TH
To: DEA
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